

Cars collide

Andrew Benwick, a second-year accounting student, examines the damage to his car following a collision outside the entrance to the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre on Conestoga Boulevard Dec 12.

(Photo by Hunter Malcolm)

Students disciplined for drinking

Eleven business students found drinking in a parking lot at 9 a.m. before boarding bus to Buffalo Bills game.

By Erica Ayliffe

Eleven Conestoga business students are banned from participating in any Doon Student Association (DSA) bus trips because of alcohol and drug abuse during the Nov. 2 Buffalo Bills bus trip.

These students were drinking in a school parking lot at 9 a.m. before boarding the bus and used marijuana on the bus, said Gerry Cleaves, DSA's vice-president of student affairs.

"When they got on the bus they were quite rowdy and intoxicated," said Becky Boertien, the DSA's director of student life.

The organization contacted Conestoga's principal Grant McGregor to see what disciplinary action they could take against the

students and decided to ban them from further bus trips.

The problem though, said Boertien, is that a number of these students used false names, addresses and phone numbers and didn't leave their student numbers, so the DSA cannot contact them.

Cleaves said that one of the 11 students had evidently planned the trip for the others, giving them aliases to use instead of their real names. Cleaves and Boertien said they believe this was done to escape any disciplinary action.

The students that used the correct identification had notices sent to the coordinators of their programs and now have this incident on their school record.

Students were told when they bought their tickets that there would be no alcohol allowed on

the bus and their ticket receipts echoed this rule, yet Boertien said some students managed to slip alcohol through the DSA's checks.

"They knew we only had a certain amount of rights when it came down to it. We couldn't kick them off the bus in Buffalo."

Gerry Cleaves, DSA vice-president of student affairs

Cleaves said the students that were already intoxicated were allowed on the bus because the rule stated that no alcohol was to

be on the bus.

"On the way there it was fairly quiet," said Cleaves.

As the bus got closer to Buffalo, Cleaves said the students figured they were home free.

"They pushed it and pushed it. Then they figured they could do whatever they wanted," said Cleaves. "They knew we only had a certain amount of rights when it came down to it. We couldn't kick them off the bus in Buffalo."

Boertien said the DSA has decided to take precautions to ensure this doesn't happen again. They are going to require students to show their student identification cards before loading buses and have made a list of the people that are no longer allowed to participate in DSA bus trips.

DSA hosts battle of the bands

By Richard Berta

A Doon Student Association (DSA) battle of the bands is scheduled to run during the month of February.

The event is intended to encourage students at Conestoga to show off their talents, said the DSA's entertainment manager Steve Harris.

The battle will not be confined to bands, but will include comedians, airbands and solo artists drawn from the student body.

Applications for the event will be available in January.

Harris is encouraging band applicants to drop off demo tapes at the DSA office and write a one page description of the band. He said that 10 bands applied in September but failed to follow through with their applications by leaving tapes with the DSA.

"We want tapes from the bands, because frankly, we want to weed out those that don't stand a chance," Harris said.

The battle of the bands will take place at Conestoga during the month of February and will be conducted over a series of "nooners." The best bands will face off against bands from other colleges and universities in March.

The finalists from this preliminary will, in turn, go compete against the best bands at a final round to be held at Ryerson Polytechnic University.

The winner will showcase at the Canadian Organization of Campus Associations National Conference in Toronto in June in an all-expense paid trip.

"In the past we've gotten a dozen bands, with a high student turnout," Harris said. "The advantage of having home-grown bands is that in addition to getting students involved, they draw groupies." He added that the bands should remember that they need at least one full-time student at the college to be eligible.

"There's some pretty good talent out there, that's confined to playing in bars," Harris said. "This is the opportunity for them to get some publicity."

Difficult for students to get foot in the door

Youth unemployment an increasing concern

By Rachel Pearce

A recent Toronto Star feature on youth employment found 46 per cent of young people who were not full-time students were living on \$1,000 a month or less or were unemployed.

Half of the 1,000 young people, aged 18 to 30, living in the Greater Toronto Area that were interviewed, still live at home and said they could not imagine ever owning their own home or being able to afford children in the near future.

Young people face a number of obstacles they feel are insurmountable: a lack of job opportunities, an inability to supply the work experience employers are demanding, and a student loan debt averaging at around \$13,000.

The feature, titled Lives On Hold, found young people face a number of obstacles they feel are insurmountable: a lack of job opportunities, an inability to

supply the practical work experience employers are demanding, and a student loan debt load averaging at around \$13,000.

Laurie Christie, a labor market information analyst at Kitchener's Human Resources Centre, said youth unemployment in Waterloo Region has dropped over the past five years, but, she added, young people are still battling the effect of Canada's last recession.

Young women are in the worst position, as 6,300 in the area are currently out of work.

Christie said even though the recession is slowly fading into the distant past, continued improvement in the region's youth employment numbers is not to be relied on.

In her opinion, youth unemployment will likely remain at similar levels, with minor fluctuations, for the next five years.

"The biggest barrier is getting your foot in the door," she said.

Christie said lack of work experience works against young people trying to break into the work force.

"Employers are demanding three to five years experience," she said. "People just don't have that very often."

The Toronto Star report found about two thirds of those who were working got their jobs through friends or family.

Another problem students face is an ever-increasing debt load.

During his economic statement to the legislature, Ontario Finance

Minister Ernie Eves gave Ontario colleges and universities the go-ahead to increase tuition by 20 per cent over the next two years. The maximum average student tuition at Ontario's 25 community colleges is currently \$1,403. It will likely rise to \$1,543 next year. The maximum average for university tuition is \$3,229. It may rise to \$3,551.

"The biggest barrier is getting your foot in the door."

Laurie Christie,
labor analyst

Barry McCarten of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, told the Star that universities and colleges are strapped for cash and will likely increase tuition to the maximum allowable amount. The increase, he said, will likely make it impossible for many people to obtain a post-secondary education.

Patti Disano, a project director at Kitchener's Human Resources Centre, said some university and college courses do not provide enough job-specific training, but obtaining a degree or diploma is desirable.

"I personally believe in education for education's sake," she said, "it helps you become a well-rounded person."



Congratulations

Nursing graduate Cynthia Brodhagen is presented with the Alice Rushton Obstetrician Award by Blondina Matheson, program manager for parent-child health at Grand River Hospital.

(Photo by Corey Jubenville)

\$537,000 given to preschools

Funding will aid language services

By Hunter Malcolm

Ontario Minister of Health Elizabeth Witmer announced on Dec. 5 that some 3,000 preschool children in Waterloo Region will benefit from a \$537,000 reinvestment in speech and language services.

A news release from the ministry announcing the reinvestment stated that it will more than double the number of preschoolers currently receiving the services.

"The aim is to prevent, identify and treat speech and language disorders in very young children so they are at a greater advantage for learning when they start school," Witmer said in the release.

The \$537,000 being provided to the Waterloo Rotary Centre is part of a total \$20 million reinvestment by the government to create and expand speech and language services for preschoolers across the entire province through partnerships with social, educational and health services at the community level.

Part of the provincial government's broader strategy of early investment in children, this recent funding is set to ensure 3,000 Waterloo preschoolers can access the programs they need.

The government has reported speech and language disorders are among the most prevalent handicapping conditions, affecting approximately 10 per cent of Ontario's children.

In addition, research has linked speech and language disorders to mental health problems, learning disabilities, poor academic achievement, increased school dropout rate, juvenile delinquency, underemployment, increased use of social services and youth and adult crime.

The government has further reported that less than half of the estimated 100,000 children in Ontario with speech and language disorders have their problems identified and get the services they need before starting school.

The Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Education and Training are all responsible for implementing this initiative.

Among regions where the preschool speech and language programs have already been announced are Peel, with \$1.4 million; Ottawa-Carleton, with \$800,000; Halton, with \$695,000; Rideau Valley, with \$200,000; and Grey-Bruce with \$184,000.



Monkey business

Security guard Katherine Downie's Macarena-performing gorilla sits in the security office, where it has become a hot conversation piece.

(Photo by Rita Fatila)

Helping out students

Support staff donates to student food bank

By Greg Bisch

Students at Conestoga College in dire financial straits never have to worry where their next meal is coming from.

"There is a student food bank set-up for those whose finances don't meet their needs," said Doon Student Association's (DSA) director of student life, Becky Boertien.

On Nov. 17, Conestoga's support staff union local 238 donated \$250 to the student food bank.

As well, the support staff union challenged faculty union Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) local 237, to meet or better that donation.

The food bank, said Boertien, is a joint effort between the DSA and Conestoga's student services to give groceries to students who require them. "The students can take as much or as little as they want," said Boertien.

The food drive runs year round



DSA director of student life, Becky Boertien, shows off the student food bank. (Photo by Greg Bisch)

throughout the college. Boxes are set up around Conestoga's Doon campus and students and faculty can donate food.

The food is then gathered by the

DSA and placed in the food bank.

"Some students come in here (the DSA office) just once for food and that is all they need," she said. "Then we have some that come

in quite regularly."

Janet Walker, clerk at Doon's student services, also helps with the drive.

"When students request food we take them to a small room off the cafeteria where the donated food is stored," she said. "They get what they need and are free to come back as often as they want."

"Everything is handled very discreetly," she said. "I even give them a grocery bag to carry the food home with so that it appears as if they just came from the grocery store."

Walker assured that students do not need to feel inhibited about coming in and asking for food. She added that she won't even watch the students pick out groceries.

Boertien added that there are no records or statistics kept of names or the amount of students the food bank aids.

"We want to respect the privacy of the individual," she said. "We don't want to make them feel like

a stat."

Even though different drives in early spring and Christmas are set up during the year, Boertien pointed out that the drive does last all year.

"We get a lot of donations during our spring food drive," she said. "We still need more awareness." She added that donations by the faculty far outnumber those from students.

"I think people should keep the drive in mind when they go shopping for themselves," said Walker. "I put something extra into my basket."

Before the support staff union's donation, the DSA, along with student services, took inventory of the student food bank.

"We never run out, but right now we have very little to choose from," said Boertien. "We have no fruits at all. We don't have any juices."

"We have plenty of macaroni and cheese," she said.

Taking pictures a creative outlet, says photographer

By Victoria Long

Scott Wishart of the Stratford Beacon Herald gave a one-hour talk and showed slides of some of his favorite photographs Dec. 11 at Conestoga College's Doon campus.

The special presentation was organized by college journalism instructor Michele Greene who told the class, "This will change your life. It's an hour well invested. Scott made me decide to quit writing and go into photography."

Wishart said he was a product of the community college system, a graduate of the print journalism program at Loyalist College.

But in 1983, he became a full-time photographer for the small city community newspaper.

"It's a creative outlet," he said.

"I feel honored to do this kind of work and get paid for it."

Wishart said it's tough keeping motivated at this point in his career when he's been covering the seasonal rotation of Stratford-area events for 18 years.

"I try to go out on assignment with a sense of enthusiasm," he said. "I go on humdrum assignments with the attitude, 'how can I make this fresh?'"

Wishart said he hasn't moved on to the "big time" partly by choice.

Working on a smaller paper can be just as rewarding, he said, because you have more input and more control over what goes into the paper.

Working in a smaller community means a variety of assignments have come Wishart's way over the years.

He recalled one of his favorites

for the Conestoga class. It was travelling with a group of handicapped or potentially terminally ill children on a trip called One Magical Journey to Orlando, Florida.

It was a long work day since the trip began before 7 a.m. and didn't end until after 11 p.m. but Wishart said he felt privileged to be a part of it.

Wishart mentioned a couple of unique perks his job in Stratford provides. One is the opportunity to take photographs of people of Amish or Mennonite cultures who he said have a mystique that appeals to big city folks. A number of his photographs have appeared in Toronto papers.

The other is the chance to take portraits of actors and actresses who appear in the Shakespearean Festival productions for a broad-sheet extra The Beacon Herald puts out during the theatre season.

Wishart said the constant cost of upgrading photographic equipment can be really burdensome but someone starting out doesn't have to invest a lot of money because you don't need the latest technology.

He told the class that in his opinion a 24 mm for closeups, a zoom lens that will stretch to 135 and a longer telephoto lens will handle almost every situation they are likely to encounter and he reminded students that in winter, a photographer has to go inside every 20 minutes to warm up the equipment.

Wishart described himself as naturally a computerphobe, but said he's been converted to the Adobe Photoshop software that Conestoga's journalism program uses.

He told the class you can save a lot of time with this package that allows the operator to do darkroom-type picture improvements almost instantly on the computer screen. "The computer saves an incredible amount of time for the company and saves a lot of grief for the printers," he said.



Photographer Scott Wishart told students that simplicity is key when taking pictures. (Contributed by Scott Wishart)



Capturing facial expressions is what Stratford Beacon Herald photographer Scott Wishart told Conestoga students makes a good picture. (Contributed by Scott Wishart)



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Welcome back and good luck to you all

Chances are if you're reading this piece, and you're not on Conestoga's payroll, you're a student enrolled for the 1998 winter semester.

Getting back into the routine of a new semester, after scrambling to get out of the last, is never easy.

For many people, the new year has emerged with fresh or perhaps old, resolutions. Commitments to better oneself and avoid the pitfalls that may have complicated the last 365 days.

For students, many of these resolutions involve time management or some form of higher priority given to academics.

No problem. As southern Ontario settles into the deep freeze, what better way to keep warm than curling up with a thick textbook and get a head start on the assigned readings. Because the outdoors are so hostile at this time of year, there should be little distraction from the task at hand.

Righteous ideals such as this are common at the start of any semester.

However, depending on a student's resilience, the good intentions may weaken as the novelty of a self-imposed, extended grind wears thin.

Having personally spent some 18 years on the educational treadmill, even more if you include classes during summers and nights, I feel qualified to say that the winter semester is the toughest. One of the principle reasons



Hunter Malcolm

for this is something many people would recognize as "cabin fever."

Because venturing outside can be such an uncomfortable feeling, people tend to feel much more secure safely flaked-out on a couch.

However, even here, a dusty stack of books offers little relief to the perpetual greyness which seems to blanket a student's scholarly existence during this time.

There are, of course, the arguments that if a person has a goal in mind, it doesn't matter what has to be done to achieve it; and that school is something everyone goes through. That may be true to a certain extent, but the point is that not everyone is necessarily going through it right now.

It's strange how the immediacy of today seems to always overshadow yesterday.

Cooped up in an apartment, to be relieved only by rigid walks to get smokes and whiskey, is a routine which also becomes old come

mid-February. Not to mention how such extracurricular indulgences modify those once righteous resolutions.

As Canadians though, we have developed ways of utilizing the environment during this season. Hockey, skiing, snowshoeing, and ice fishing are all healthy distractions from the stuffy indoors.

No matter how you choose to exert your energies, as you stand at the threshold of yet another semester, and a long, cold winter, take comfort in the fact that as of Dec. 21, the days have started to get longer and even though it will get worse before it gets better, spring is on its way.

Letter to the Editor

'Absolute power corrupts,' says faculty member

In your article (Salaries remain frozen, Dec. 1), President Tibbitts is quoted as saying that teachers "now have 462 hours of actual teaching, or 14.4 hours a week."

This of course is taken out of context.

The work load formula which was introduced in 1984 should be the basis of comparison and discussion.

Using this formula, the hours worked would in most cases be between 40 and 44 hours per week; these are the figures that must be used.

To do otherwise is to impugn the dedication and commitment of college faculty.

It should also be noted that the hours worked by faculty are controlled entirely by the administration within the

constraints of the Standard Workload Formula (SWF). Why do we have the SWF? For the same reason that we have the Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights and all the other laws governing master/slave or manager/worker relationships - because through the centuries it has been repeatedly shown that all power corrupts and must be controlled.

Remember also that absolute power corrupts absolutely and it all starts with one small step of "flexibility to improve productivity."

Ask the Westray miners.

Edmund Sharratt,
College faculty member



The information superhype

Poor Thomas Edison, I think to myself whenever I go to the movies. Poor misguided Edison, I think, ever since learning about his part in inventing the movie projector.

Edison thought his kinetoscope would be a perfect scientific and educational tool for the study of time and motion.

Here at last, he thought, was a tool that could film an athlete running or tiger pouncing, unleashing the mysteries of physics.

To the horror of Edison, and other middle-class reformers of 19th century America, the little flicker box made its way into the vaudeville houses and penny arcades of working-class neighborhoods.

In these darkened rooms, young men would more likely be watching racy films of women exposing their ankles than engrossed in any type of scientific inquiry.

While history does not always repeat itself, sometimes it rhymes. In the past, Edison and other inventors spoke about the movie projector as something that would bring knowledge and enlightenment to the masses.

In a similar way, teachers, administrators, computer salespeople and students are speaking about the Internet as a necessary tool for education.

Watching computer technicians run meter after meter of computer cable at the college,

nobody seems to be asking if access to the Internet is simply publicly funded access to entertainment.

To answer this question we have to look at the nature of the medium itself. Compare the number of sites an Internet search will find relating to Pamela Anderson to those about the Spanish Armada or kinesiology. Dollar after dollar is funding what essentially amounts to slow TV.

Moreover, just because the Internet is easy access to information doesn't mean the Internet is useful information in and of itself.

What students, or anyone surfing the Internet, quickly discovers is that the only thing that gets put on the Internet is what someone wants you see — ergo advertising.

People who support Internet access in schools — particularly those who are making money off of it —

sometimes speak of its ability to connect students to people all over the world to share information and ideas. Please. A walk through the men's locker room would be more enlightening than what gets tapped back and forth on chat lines in one of Conestoga's Internet labs.

Are we so misguided to think that with universal access, the Internet would resemble a blackboard instead of a bathroom wall? Admittedly, the Internet has the potential to bring students within easy reach of information and knowledge.

It is like a card catalogue this way. But like a card catalogue, or skill saw, or a movie projector, as important as knowing how to use the tool is knowing its limitations.



Ross Bragg

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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SPOKE is mainly funded from September to May by the Doon Student Association (DSA). The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Conestoga College or the DSA. Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the DSA unless their advertisements contain the DSA logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space. Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor by 9:30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect or MS Word file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libellous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a photograph).

HEY!
HEY!
HEY!

IT'S ENTERTAINMENT

JANUARY 5, 1998

RENT



©What's Inside©

- ☐ Year in review
- ☐ Photographer Janet Smith
- ☐ Broadway production *Rent*
- ☐ Reviews
- ☐ Campus events

Go ahead see for yourself →

Broadway production

Youthful musical explosion

RENT

◆by Sarah Smith◆

It's a story of rags to riches. *Rent*, a Broadway production concerning the bohemia of New York, is enjoying phenomenal success since its release in early 1996.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama and the Tony Award for best musical, *Rent* recently opened in Toronto at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King St. W.

The show opened Dec. 7 and is intended to run until May 3, but continued popularity means the production's schedule will probably be extended. According to Randy Alldread, a publicist with Mirvish Productions, *Rent* is proving very popular in Toronto, with tickets sold out until March.

"People are saying *Rent* is to the '90s what *Hair* was to the '60s and *Jesus Christ Superstar* was to the '70s," said Alldread.

Created by Jonathan Larson, who died of an aortic aneurism after the final dress rehearsal, *Rent* is being heralded by critics as a masterpiece of theatre and a refreshing change from the usual stage fare.

"The youthful, vibrant musical explosion has turned Broadway upside down and become New York's hottest ticket, as it brings to the stage a world of diverse cultures and music in a tribute to struggling artists everywhere," says the press release from Mirvish Productions.

Rent is based on *La Boheme*, an opera written by Giacomo Puccini which opened a century ago in Turin, Italy, on Feb. 1, 1896. The opera concerns the tortured lives of artists living in Paris, determined to stay true to their creativity while coping with the ugly realities of poverty and disease. The production involves three main individuals, Mimi,

Rodolfo and Marcello, caught up in the passion and misery of their lives.

"*Rent* is faithful to the opera because there are distinct parallels all the way through," said Alldread.

Certainly the themes of each piece are similar, as the issues of poverty, homelessness, disease and relationships are addressed in both. But while *La Boheme* had characters stricken with consumption, *Rent* characters deal with current, and potentially controversial, issues.

Rent is unlike the many other productions being offered, such as the *Phantom of the Opera* and *Beauty and the Beast*, in its gritty look at the social ills of today, and this is part of its appeal.

"I did enjoy the show. The music was pretty funky," said Margot Boyd of Toronto, who attended a performance. "It also had some highs and lows, so it took you through different sets of emotions during a couple of hours."

As to the depictions of homosexuality in the piece, Boyd said she did not find any elements distasteful or offensive.

"As acceptance of the gay lifestyle has almost a new vogueness associated with it, I think that it would be looked as being pretty un-hip to have a problem with this musical," she said.

Publicist Alldread said they have received no complaints about *Rent*, despite the material some people might find offensive.

"Knock on wood," he said. "There are some things involved that an older generation might not be too familiar with, like interracial relationships, AIDs, gay people and homelessness."

But Alldread said the show appeals to all ages, despite its youthful cast and storyline. "It's definitely a younger show - it's loud, in your face, saying 'this is life'," he said. "That's part of its appeal."

For ticket information, call 1-800-461-3333.

Hey!

AN EYE FOR AN IMAGE

photo and story by Natalie Schneider

Until Jan. 10, the Kitchener Public Library, 85 Queen St. N., is displaying In the Land of the Belongers, a photography exhibit showcasing the people and places of the Turks and Caicos Islands of Grand Turk and Salt Clay.

The photographs taken by local artist Janet Smith are not amateur snapshots. Instead, her photographs are an immense collection of beauty and emotion. To transform photographs from mere pictures to art is an enormous feat. Viewing Smith's photographs, it is obvious she has conquered that.

The majority of her photographs concentrates on objects, but Smith said she is beginning to merge people into her photographs. "People are very different compared to objects because they have feelings, and things obviously don't. I find it very difficult taking photos of people - invading their privacy. But, I'm starting to do more of that now and hopefully I'll improve in that area," said Smith.

Her photography display on the Turks and Caicos Islands is a familiar place for Smith since she has been vacationing there for quite some time.

"It's undiscovered. It's like what the Caribbean was at one time. It's natural and the people are very friendly. It's a quaint little island," said Smith.

This is her seventh photography exhibit, after only recently beginning to display her work this year. The galleries that have displayed her work include the Eldon Gallery, as well as local galleries in Elora. Currently she also has a display at the Wellington County Museum, showcasing photographic images of Wellington County.

The fact that Smith has had seven exhibits is remarkable, considering she only began seriously pursuing photography two years ago.

"Like everybody else, I always



her Janet Smith

had a camera - you know, when you go on vacation you take photographs. But, about two years ago, I decided to pursue it seriously. I made the switch to slide film, which is very difficult. You have to have proper exposure as opposed to if you're shooting print film," said Smith.

When asked where she got the inspiration to pursue photography, Smith said she really can't pinpoint where it came from.

"I think it was because my husband travels a lot and it was one way that I thought would be a neat way to entertain myself," said Smith. "I just love taking photographs. I guess it legitimizes your travel. I really can't explain why I enjoy it so much."

At this point in her pursuit of photography, Smith said she would like to turn it into a career.

"It's very difficult, obviously, to make a living on anything dealing with art. Especially with photography, because a lot of people don't think it's art," said Smith. "I would like to continue pursuing photography. It's such a great field, you can expand into new techniques."

Although she began shooting color photography, Smith said she is now shooting black and white as well.

"I love color a lot, but I'm learning to like black and white film. At this point, I'm actually starting to enjoy it because there's a lot more darkroom work associated with black and white film. I'm really enjoying developing the prints and manipulating them," said Smith. "With color, there's not as much manipulation and you have to have a spot-on slide. You can't dodge and burn like you can with black and white."

To date, Smith has sold one of her photographs of a swamp in Alberta - she laughs when she explains it was sold to her father. The process of taking the actual photograph is the most fulfilling aspect for her, said Smith.

"I really enjoy doing that. Two days ago, I was in the Elora Cemetery. I spent two hours before I got too cold, just wandering around looking at leaves frozen in the snow, trying to find a perfect pattern in nature," said Smith.

Her obvious love for photography and her eye for taking images and putting them on paper have already taken Smith where many die-hard photographers would like to be. On top of her exhibits, she has also opened her own studio this year, which she runs out of her home.



Rock'n Nooners

Featuring

The Mike Plume Band

Thurs. Jan. 8

11:30 am

The Sanctuary



A global map of Canada

Recently, the front page of the Kitchener-Waterloo Record announced the cultural diversity of Kitchener's Cameron Heights collegiate institute.

As a whole, its students speak 61 different languages and represent 57 different nationalities.

For some inside our borders, it is the view that Canada is a large bleeding heart, taking in more immigrants than any other nation, and allowing them to influence our culture.

But immigrants are our culture. In fact, as a multi-cultural society there is no "our" or "us" besides maybe for law-abiding citizens. This is a hard lesson some Canadians still have to learn.

The idea that Canada is a Christianity-based society comprised of caucasians is outdated and untrue. As well, former immigrants who became Canadians before others have no right in this country to pronounce themselves as more important.

As a result, we have the wisdom of all religious and non-religious beliefs under one roof and are all justified in expressing our own. (Which means, incidentally, that Christians can have nativity scenes as well as Shintos can have their shrines.)

Our multi-cultural society and culture (made official back in the '70s by a Liberal government under Pierre Elliot Trudeau, thank-you very much) is a mini-model of what the world will soon be.

One benefit of this is that in a growing global economy, we have representatives from every country around the world inside our borders.

It will be inevitable for the rest of the world to take care of their economics without taking a lesson from us. German businessman will have to try to understand Japanese language and culture to make trade.

This is why those who have preference toward the melting pot ways of the United States will never get away from the realities of Canada.

The world will soon have to deal with differences between people and do it in relative harmony.

Some say Canada has no culture. They are wrong. We have the culture of every person who has Canadian citizenship along with all her beliefs and rituals.

True, we are not one distinct culture. But we are the first country with such a multi-cultural style.



Greg Bisch

Majority polled support use of medicinal marijuana

Story and photos by Hunter Malcolm

On Dec. 10, Judge Patrick Sheppard of the Ontario court ruled that certain sections of the Controlled Drug and Substance Act are unconstitutional in cases where marijuana is used for medically approved purposes.

In doing so, Sheppard stayed charges of possession and cultivation of marijuana against 42-year-old Terry Parker, an epileptic who was charged in July 1996.

Parker's illness is best controlled with a combination of prescribed medication and smoking marijuana, Sheppard said, and depriving him of marijuana is unconstitutional.

The ruling does not, however, mean anyone with the flu can now take up. People who are caught may still be charged and prosecuted, but the decision makes a certain precedent for other judges to consider when making their own rulings.

The issue over the prohibition of marijuana is largely political, and Judge Sheppard's decision is expected to have significant implications on future legislation regarding it.

"If it helps to make someone who is sick more comfortable, then why not?"

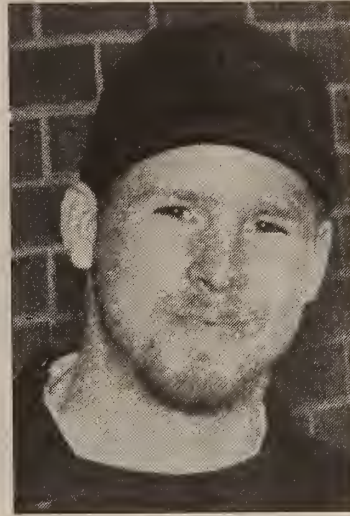
John Naas, computer programming

Because the judge ruled the laws are unconstitutional, the matter will eventually end up being debated in the House of Commons, in order to determine people's rights regarding personal pot consumption.

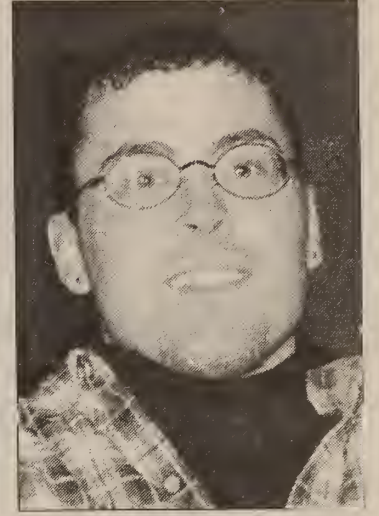
Conestoga students were asked whether they believed the notorious grass should be



Sandra Bambrich nursing



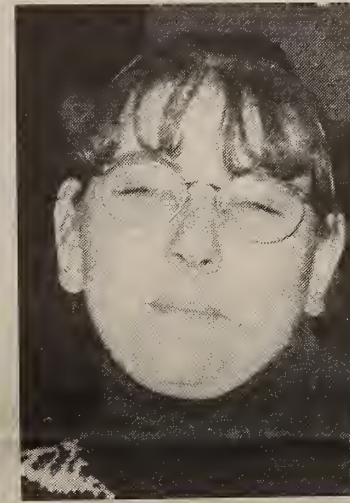
Devin Fournier general arts and science



Chris Garstin computer programming



John Naas computer programming



Kim Ricketts nursing



Alister Haddad construction engineering

legalized. The reactions were mixed.

John Naas, computer programming, said he believes there are no long-term implications to smoking marijuana and that it may have viable medicinal applications.

"If it helps to make someone who is sick more comfortable then why not," he said.

Chris Garstin, computer programming, also said he thought it should be legalized.

"Marijuana and hemp have a lot of practical value, despite the fact that it can be abused, but what can't be abused?" he said.

Alister Haddad, construction engineering, though, said he didn't think marijuana should be legalized.

"It would mean more people would be smoking and I don't think society could adjust to that many people living in a non-reality. I don't have anything against people who smoke it, but that doesn't necessarily mean that I do," he said.

Sandra Bambrich, nursing, said that in terms of marijuana's medicinal potential, it should be legalized.

"There are more benefits than harm in what it does for people who are sick; why should it be denied?" she said.

Kim Ricketts, nursing, believes the medical benefits of marijuana justify

its legalization.

"Research has proven it's beneficial. There are other drugs, which are currently used, which have far more harmful effects on the patient," she said.

Devin Fournier, general arts and science, said legalizing pot would actually relieve society of a cumbersome burden.

"It would save the courts time and money, which is currently spent on its criminalization. It would also eliminate a whole aspect of criminals," he said.

As the issue over marijuana's place in our society continues to gain publicity, the debate over it will likely grow like a weed.

TERRY FOX HUMANITARIAN AWARD PROGRAM

What Is the Award?

A Scholarship of \$400.00 awarded annually subject to satisfactory academic progress.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

Candidates must be Canadian Citizens or have Landed Immigrant Status. They must not exceed 25 years of age and must be studying towards a diploma or a degree in a Canadian College or University.

What Is the Selection Criteria?

Demonstration of the highest ideals and qualities of Citizenship will be the criteria. Further relevant qualities are courage in overcoming obstacles, involvement in humanitarian service and participation in sport, fitness and community service.

Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office located in the Student Client Services Building.

Not Enough Money For 2nd Semester?



Apply for the Conestoga College Bursary!

WHO CAN APPLY?

All students who are in good academic standing and demonstrate financial need.

Application forms now available in Student Services or the Registrar's Office



Sports



Canadian junior team trains in Kitchener

By Dan Meagher

Canada's national junior hockey team has found a formula that works in more ways than one.

The squad has convened at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Complex in mid-December for five of the last eight years to prepare for this year's post-

Christmas tournament.

Hockey Canada has said the complex is ideal for the camp due to its central location in Canada and its three ice surfaces, two of

which are olympic-sized and can be turned over to the team in the peak of minor hockey season.

"It is really perfect for our purposes," said Canada's head coach Real Paient. "It gives us a location where we can run an effective mini-camp, relatively unhindered by outside influences and have access to prime ice at all times."

Paient, who coaches the Moncton Wildcats in the Quebec junior league, recommended a return to Kitchener after attending last year's camp as an assistant to head coach Mike Babcock. "We were really impressed with the facilities and the cooperation of the people here."

The complex features large dressing rooms as well as a teaching theatre. Paient said it is ideal for the team's purposes since he has to teach a new system to a group of players, who have never played with each other, within a period of five days.

Another bonus of having the camp in Kitchener is the proximity to the three local universities. Every year that the junior team has

come to Kitchener, a team of university players from the area has been assembled to give the juniors some high level competition.

"Playing the university is a great opportunity, because the boys get to go up against some highly skilled players who are older and stronger than they are and it really tests their mettle," Paient said.

Coaching staffs on national teams in the past have often lamented the fact that players only have a few sessions to prove themselves and it is unfair to cut players sometimes. It is a disadvantage that the team can't get around without depriving the three junior leagues of their premier players for an extended period.

The team's coaching staff has such a short time to put the team together that it helps to have familiar surroundings, Paient said, so that the adjustment process is easier.

"Besides..." he offered, "Why mess with it when it obviously is working."

Waterloo minor hockey leads abuse prevention with its Code of Conduct

By L.Scott Nicholson

To anyone familiar with the sights and sounds of minor hockey, there is one ever-present noise that rises above the sound of the players on the ice.

The sound of an irate mother or father yelling obscenities at opposing players or at his or her own child is a distracting annoyance that plagues every arena from Vancouver to St. John's.

Abuse of minor hockey players, whether physical or verbal has been occurring for many years as has been revealed by former NHL player Sheldon Kennedy and the abuse he suffered at the hands of his coach Graham James as a junior hockey player in western Canada.

Minor hockey organizations across the country are slowly starting to recognize the problem and are beginning to implement programs to address abuse in minor hockey.

One of the pioneers in developing a preventative/awareness program has been the Waterloo Minor Hockey Association.

Monica Jutzi, a member of the Code of Conduct Committee in Waterloo, said the committee was formed following an incident involving a hockey coach showering in view of minor players was brought before the minor hockey executive.

Although, Jutzi said the incident was innocent and nothing came of it, the committee was created in order to deal with similar problems in the future and to initiate preventative measures.

"The committee was formed to alert parents, players and others concerned what the proper course of action should be if a problem occurs," Jutzi said.

Although the committee was formed in March 1997, it was not until November that the Code of Conduct started to gain popularity. Still, Jutzi said, the committee is hoping to gain more acceptance.

"The Code of Conduct Committee set up mandatory training sessions for all coaches in Waterloo minor hockey and flyers were sent out to all registrants regarding a parent's information night," Jutzi said.

"Out of 2,000 parents only about 100 attended."

A separate Fair Play Code has been established for coaches, players, officials, executive, parents and spectators each one with responsibilities they are to uphold.

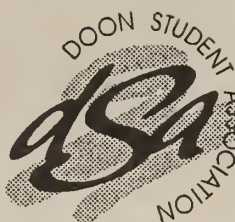
If, for example, a parent or spectator feels another spectator is out of line with what they are saying, Jutzi said they should go to an arena attendant who will ask the agitator to leave the building.

Eileen Lobsinger, a member of the Waterloo Minor Hockey Support Group said she was happy to see the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

She said after watching her son Kevin, who is a product of the minor hockey system and is now a coach in the system, she encountered many a rowdy parent.

Jutzi said as the Code of Conduct gains more exposure, other sport associations in the city are coming forward seeking advice on how to implement a similar program.

We Dare You!



17th Annual Polar Plunge

THURS., JAN. 29

12:05 PM

DOON POND

Register at the
DSA Office



DSA Elections '98

Nominations Open
January 19 - 28
for the following positions:

President

Vice President of Operations

Vice President of Student Affairs

More information
is available
at the DSA Office



Lacrosse a 'cult sport'

Local association tries to raise the game's profile

By L.A. Livingston

In Canada's cold, snow-driven climate, and at this time of the year, it is easy to assume that hockey is Canada's national sport. In fact, hockey has only recently joined the ranks with lacrosse, which has been our national sport since Confederation. Lacrosse is a high-energy game, at least as exciting as hockey and perhaps as brutal, that has a low profile in a country that invented both sports.

Ray Hallman, president of the K-W Minor Lacrosse Association, said, "The biggest problem with lacrosse is that it's a summertime sport played inside. It's more difficult to make it visual

because all the games are played inside an arena."

He said the best way to raise the profile of lacrosse, which he calls a "cult sport", is to take the game outside.

Along with the indoor sport, called a 'box game', there are women and men's field lacrosse teams who play outdoors. Brad Mulholland, past president of the KWMLA, said the field sport is played at the international level, and is popular in England, Japan, Australia and the United States.

"It was originally a field game, but then with the box game, the hockey arenas were sitting empty (in the summer), so they moved it indoors," said Mulholland. "People who are in it love it."

Hallman said interest in the sport is on the rise in Kitchener-Waterloo. There were 26 teams

registered at the tournament held in July — about 390 boys and girls aged seven to 10.

Mulholland said until the 1970s, lacrosse was the only co-ed sport in Ontario. He helped organize the girls' field lacrosse teams in K-W about five years ago, he said.

"It's the only sport they never, ever said girls could not play," he said.

Lacrosse will never be as popular as baseball or hockey, he said.

"What we try to do is live within our means and run a very solid program. In our town we can accommodate 350 kids comfortably. It's unrealistic for us to think that someday we're going to have 3,000 kids playing lacrosse," he said.

Some youngsters who play lacrosse also play hockey, he said. "We have kids who come in to play at the early levels and they'll play, and once they get to 14, 15 or 16, usually your good athletes are also your good hockey players."

"They're involved in summer hockey, roller hockey, hockey try-outs in August, which is when our provincials are," Mulholland said. "There's an overlap in the seasons, so instead of playing all year and then foregoing the provincials, kids are just saying 'Well, I can't play this year. I'll commit to hockey.'"

Mulholland said the popularity of lacrosse suffers from being viewed as a dead-end sport. "Parents will put their kid in hockey because there's the NHL, but they don't make it. Then there's baseball, there's the major leagues, but they

don't make it," he said.

Hallman said he would like to see lacrosse get the level of respect it deserves. "If you're involved in lacrosse circles, you see how much enjoyment it brings to the kids.

The kids are competitive, and they might be more aggressive than some of their buddies in school, but they get a huge amount of enjoyment out of it. Yet at times, I don't think the rest of the sporting

world looks at it as being acceptable," he said.

Mulholland said lacrosse has now been named the national sport of the summer, instead of the overall national sport.



Ron Hallman (left), president of the K-W Minor Lacrosse Association, and Brad Mulholland, past president of the KWMLA.

(Photo by L.A. Livingston)

Attention January Intake Students

DSA Health Plan

Opt Out
or Family Opt In
Deadline is

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1998

Further information is
available at the DSA Office



Kitchener Transit Passes

ON SALE

Monday, January 5
&

Tuesday, January 7
10 am - 2 pm
Door 3 Foyer



4 Month Pass \$164
Photo ID \$4



Waterloo battles it out with Windsor in the All-Star Novice and Tyke lacrosse tournament, held at the Albert McCormick arena in Waterloo this past July.

(Photo by L.A. Livingston)

Conestoga's hockey team dominates league

Condors expected to keep soaring

By Corina Hill

When the Conestoga Condors men's hockey team takes to the ice, everyone in the arena turns their head and watches them play.

The team, comprised of nearly 30 players, has quickly risen to the top of the pack in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association.

In the first half of the season, the Condors won eight of nine games bringing their total points up to 16.

Even more impressive, the Condors have kept their penalty minutes lower than any other team with only 192 penalty minutes in all of their games.

It is impressive compared to teams like Cambrian who has amassed a total of 518 penalty minutes in eight games.

Condor coach Kevin Hergott said the teams winning can be attributed to their ability to keeping their penalty minutes down.

"There's a reason that the one and two teams are in first and second place," he said adding that the team in second place, Seneca Scouts, have only 219 penalty minutes. "We're averaging about 20 minutes a game."

Low penalty minutes isn't the only reason the Condors are at the top of the league. The Condors have numerous players who excel at putting the puck into the net.

The top three individual points

leaders in the league, Darryl Sinclair, Chris Palubeski and Matt Goodburn, are on Conestoga's team and all three are on the same line.

"Everyone knows we have a big line but they can't stop them," said Hergott.

And if you think the other players on the team are kept on the bench, think again.

"We have 11 different goal scorers," said Hergott.

He attributes the Goodburn, Palubeski and Sinclair line's success to their quest to be on the ice when the team is in a losing position.

"If we're behind, they want to be out there," said Hergott.

But Hergott also said the second line of Trevor Uhrig, Chris Bumstead and Sean Murray is also a strong offensive line.

With having 18, first-year players on the Condors this season, the team has come to rely on the nine veterans for leadership, said Hergott.

Athletic director Ian James said the teams success came from a little more than just leadership.

"It looks here like all the conditioning is paying off," said James. "It seems like we're really scoring in the third period."

The Condors will return to the ice Jan. 5 after nearly a month without practices.

"They're going to come back focused because of their success in the first half," said Hergott.

A tournament in Quebec will be the first opportunity for the Condors to play against a team from outside of the OCAA this season.

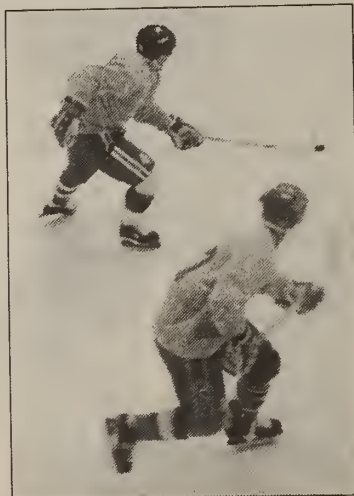
"It will be an opportunity to play a different kind of hockey," said the coach.

The next Condor home game will be Jan. 21 at the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre.

The Condors will face the Seneca Scouts in the Wednesday evening game starting at 7:30 p.m.



Condor players scramble in front of net during practice, Dec. 11. (Photo by Corina Hill)



Two Condor teammates work the puck up the ice during a practice on Dec. 11.

(Photo by Corina Hill)

MEN'S HOCKEY

LEAGUE STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	PTS
Conestoga	9	8	1	0	16
Seneca	10	6	4	0	12
Cambrian	8	5	2	1	11
S.S. Fleming	9	4	3	2	10
Boreal	9	2	6	1	5
Sault	11	1	10	0	2

LEADING SCORERS

NAME	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS
Darryl Sinclair	CON	9	12	16	28
Chris Palubeski	CON	9	10	12	22
Matt Goodburn	CON	9	9	12	21
Geoff Smith	SEN	10	4	13	17
Chris Colburn	SEN	10	11	6	17
Mike Senior	CAM	8	6	9	15

CONDORS HOME GAMES

Jan. 21 vs SEN 7:30p.m.

Jan. 28 vs FLEM 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 7 vs CAM 4 p.m.

Feb. 11 vs SEN 7:30p.m.

READ SPOKE

Toronto Maple Leafs vs. St. Louis

Wednesday, February 4

Tickets \$40 includes transportation

Tickets On Sale Jan. 15 at the DSA Office

Limit 2 tickets per student

DOON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Blue Mountain Ski Trip, Fri., Jan. 30.

Plan to ski white at Blue Mountain. The DSA is organizing a bus trip for students, who can either ski or snowboard.

The cost of the trip is \$25, which includes an all day lift pass and transportation. The

rental rate of skis is \$11 and snowboards is \$24. An additional credit card deposit of \$400 is require for snow board rentals.

Students may bring one (1) guest on this excursion. Sign up at the DSA Office by January 21, 1998.

DOON STUDENT ASSOCIATION



READING THE BOOK HELPS MAKE SENSE OF THE RAINMAKER

The Rainmaker could have been an excellent movie. But, as the screenwriter, Francis Ford Coppola fails in his attempt to cram the complex and lengthy novel into 2 1/4 hours of screen time.

The sixth of John Grisham's courtroom dramas to make it to the big screen, *The Rainmaker* is set in Memphis, Tenn., and revolves around Rudy Baylor (Matt Damon) of *Courage Under Fire*. He's a newly qualified attorney with no money and no promising prospects in a city already crawling with lawyers.

When Baylor is hired by a sleazy strip-mall law firm, he starts to work on the daunting task of suing an insurance company on behalf of a poor couple, whose son is dying of leukemia.

In the courtroom, he butts heads with the suitably smug John Voight (*Mission Impossible*) and his vast team of legal minions. Baylor's team consists solely of Danny DeVito as Deck Shifflet, a self-proclaimed para-lawyer who knows everything but can't quite manage to pass the bar exam.

Because of time restraints, the movie skips a lot of background information. The result is not fast-paced excitement, but confusion. Much of the missing information is unnecessary, but some should have been included.

For example, through most of the movie, the audience doesn't really know why the family has grounds to sue. All they are told is that some claim was denied, and a life-

saving operation is mentioned in passing.

Another problem with *The Rainmaker* is that Coppola chose to include many of the subplots woven throughout the novel, so the film jerks from scene to completely unrelated scene, leaving issues cloudy and unresolved.

Some moments that have the potential to be extremely affecting or exciting lose their punch because they are given too little background and air time before the next scene begins.

Ford Coppola had three choices: make the movie twice as long to allow the stories time to develop, focus on the main theme and forget about the rest, or try to force the entire novel to fit. Unfortunately he chose the third. Thus everything good about *The Rainmaker* is lost in the shuffle.

As the director, Coppola, of *Godfather* fame, is on the money. The acting is excellent all around, from Damon's idealistic lawyer to Claire Danes's (*Romeo and Juliet*) battered wife.

DeVito deserves more air time, as does Johnny Whitworth (*Bye Bye Love*), as the courageous young victim of cancer and corporate America.

I usually recommend watching the movie before reading the book, because casting choices and plot changes are often a let-down when the book is read first. In this case, I suggest you read *The Rainmaker* before you see it so you'll understand the film.

by Alison Shadbolt



As we enter the new year, many of us will be thinking about the future. However, not nearly enough of us are thinking about some of the challenges it may pose, according to Jim Carroll and Rick Broadhead.

The two men have released the 1998 *Canadian Internet Handbook*, which discusses many of the implications Internet growth brings to the future, as well as what you can do to protect yourself.

The book is broken down into six chapters which focus on culture, legal issues and privacy, business, media, entertainment and technology.

Chapters are further broken down into sub-topics, making it easy to locate the information you want.

One chapter I highly recommend to people surfing the net concerns government and legal issues.

From the beginning, the authors say privacy and freedom is a paramount concern for cyber-citizens, and this theme is carried throughout the book.

The authors make no bones about where they stand, and their position is clear.

"We find that the government resorts to threat in the absence of any laws, and we find that business has not yet developed the discipline to respect the rights of wired Canadians."

They point out ways in which regular Canadians

and "Netizens" can have their privacy invaded, such as how the collection of seemingly harmless information can be used to refuse credit, build a profile of you to sell and send you a metaphorical ton of mail. And if you won't supply the information, how they can obtain it by tricking your kids.

They also deal with government attempts to regulate the Internet, and what

they have to say is not flattering.

Carroll and Broadhead call the government's venture into cyberspace "pretty darned silly," using cases from the 1997 federal elec-

tion to demonstrate the importance of the efforts.

But the book is more than just warnings, some of the writing also takes on a tone of advocacy. As well as telling the reader how their privacy is threatened, the authors also explain what can be done to protect yourself.

They do the same thing for junk e-mail, an increasing problem for "Netizens", and adopt a free speech stance when dealing with government regulation.

The book is also packed with loads of information on everything from using the Internet as a business tool, to the development of online entertainment and the technology behind the net.

As a bonus to the reader, the book isn't merely a wall of text. It also includes quotes from authorities on issues, graphics to help explain things and charts and graphs to bring home the importance of developments, a nice touch.

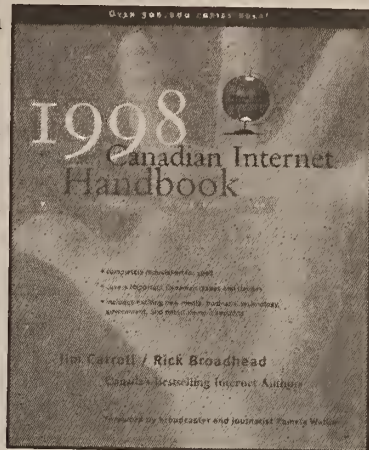
The handbook is also filled with e-mail addresses and web sites of people and organizations mentioned throughout the book.

The only criticism I have for this book is that it

sometimes seems like the authors are plugging some of the software, although they usually give more than one source for a product.

This book is a definite for everyone, from rank beginners to experienced users, who want to know what really goes on in cyberspace and how to protect themselves and benefit in the electronic age. Rating 4/5

by Corey Jubenville



Internet handbook an essential guide



Jan. 5 — 1998

Spoke

Winter Camp Out!

we DARE you!

WED., FEB. 4

4 PM - 8 AM

DOON CAMPUS

Register at the
DSA Office



Hey!

A year in entertainment

by Rita Fatila

1997 will be remembered as a year of blockbusters, flops, comebacks, failures, triumphs, and scandal. In other words, it was just like every other year.

January:

The year starts off tragically for Bill Cosby as his son Ennis is shot and killed Jan. 16 while fixing a flat tire on the Santa Monica freeway. A week later Autumn Jackson, a woman who claims to be Cosby's daughter, is charged with conspiracy to extort \$40 million from him.

At the movies, the long-awaited *Evita* is released theatrically, as is *Star Wars*. Improved with new special effects and extra footage, the movie is the first of the altered trilogy to come out.

In music, No Doubt continues to rule the charts as their album *Tragic Kingdom* hits number one on the Billboard charts.

In January, the entertainment world loses Jeanne Dixon, The Star tabloid's annual astrologer who was noted for her yearly predictions.

February:

On Feb. 13, Debbie Rowe, also known as Mrs. Michael Jackson, gives birth to a boy in Los Angeles. Photographers scramble to get the first photos of Jackson's son, named Prince.

The 39th Annual Grammy Awards are held Feb. 26. Among the winners are: Celine Dion for best album (*Falling into You*), Eric Clapton for record of the year



(Change the World) and Leanne Rimes for best new artist. Meanwhile, on the Billboard charts, No Doubt's *Tragic Kingdom* holds on at number one.

Friends movie watch: Although the men of *Friends* had an abysmal year for movies in 1996, Matthew Perry sees if 1997 will treat him any nicer in *Fools Rush In*, released on Valentine's Day. At the end of the month, *The Empire Strikes Back*, the second of the *Star Wars* trilogy, is released.

March:

On March 9, Biggie Smalls, also known as the Notorious B.I.G., is killed in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles. Smalls, 24, was set to release his album *Life After Death*, March 25. Meanwhile, fellow deceased musician Selena has a movie based on her life released. Also at the movies, Jim Carrey recovers from the flop *Cable Guy* with *Liar, Liar*, and *Return of the Jedi* is released.

The Oscars are held in March. Many are surprised at the nominations. Blockbusters are ignored in favor of independent critically acclaimed films, such as *The English Patient*, which is nominated 12 times and picks up nine awards. One of the few nods to a major film, *Jerry Maguire*, is the award for best supporting actor to Cuba Gooding Jr.

April:

Life After Death by the Notorious B.I.G. hits number one on the Billboard charts for April and May. Also in music, U2 embarks on their Pop Mart tour in April.

Friends movie watch: Lisa Kudrow imitates Phoebe in *Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion*. Also at the movies in April are *Volcano*, *Anaconda* and *Grosse Pointe Blanche*.

On April 5, noted beat poet Alan Ginsberg dies of liver cancer. The author of *Howl* was 71.

Ellen DeGeneres finally comes out in an hour-long episode of *Ellen* on April 30.

May:

The Cannes Film Festival is held in early May. The Palme d'Or is split between an Iranian film, *The Taste of Cherry*, and the Japanese *Unagi*. Canadian Atom Egoyan picks up the Grand Jury prize for *The Sweet Hereafter*.

One of the number one albums on the Billboard charts for May is Mary J. Blige's *Share My World*.

June:

Julia Roberts makes a comeback at the box office with *My Best Friend's Wedding*, and John Travolta continues his comeback in *Face/Off*. George Clooney, however, might have to think about making a comeback after the dismal performance of *Batman and Robin*.

The Spice Girls continue their meteoric rise in June, with their album *Spice* going to the top of the Billboard charts.

Also in June, girls in love with Brad Pitt celebrate after he splits with long-time girlfriend Gwyneth Paltrow.

July:

Hollywood loses two legends at the start of July. Robert Mitchum dies on July 1 and Jimmy Stewart dies July 2. Also on July 2, Will Smith saves the Earth in the blockbuster *Men in Black*.

The fashion world is shocked when Gianni Versace is shot in front of his house July 15. An international manhunt for suspected killer Andrew Cunanan creates a lot of panic and gossip until Cunanan is found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in a houseboat, near Miami, a few weeks later.

As summer gears up, several travelling music festivals tour the continent. Lollapalooza, one of the oldest, features Snoop Doggy Dogg, Tool and Tricky playing to smaller crowds than usual. The media gives a lot of coverage to Lilith Fair, the all-women musical tour organized by

Sarah McLachlan. Among the artists playing on the bill are McLachlan, Joan Osborne, Jewel and the Indigo Girls. At the opposite end of the musical spectrum Marilyn Manson's *Dead to the*



World tour rolls across North America, attracting protests and controversy along the way. One of Billboard's number one albums for July is Bob Carlisle's *Butterfly*

August:

Carlisle is eventually thrown out of the number one spot by Prodigy. Their *Fat of the Land* album stays at the top for August.

Famous author William S. Burroughs dies Aug. 2.

Friends movie watch: Jennifer Aniston co-stars with Kevin Bacon in *Picture Perfect*. Action movies and thrillers are big at the box office with the release of *Mimic*, *Steel* and *Spawn*.

The world is thrown into mourning at the end of August when a car crash claims the lives of Diana, Princess of Wales, as well as her boyfriend Dodi Al-Fayed and their driver, Henri Paul. Elton John sings a revised version of *Candle in the Wind* at Diana's funeral and the single tops the charts. All proceeds from sales of the single, which at present is over \$32 million, go to a foundation set up in Diana's name.

September:

George Clooney attempts to recover from *Batman and Robin* with the action flick *The Peacemaker*, while Kevin Spacey gains more critical acclaim with *LA Confidential*.

The start of the fall television season brings back lots of old shows and a few new ones, such as *Ally McBeal*, *Veronica's Closet*, *Dharma and Greg*, *Nothing Sacred* and *Dellaventura*. For some reason, Jenny McCarthy is also given her own show.

Puff Daddy's *No Way Out* tops the Billboard charts for September. Puff's producing skills bring out many stars for 1997, such as Mase and Lil Kim. He also has a hand in reviving Mariah Carey's career.

Burgess Meredith, a serious actor who is popularly known as the Penguin from the *Batman* television series, dies on Sept. 9.

October:

Teen country sensation Leann Rimes reaches the top of the Billboard charts in October with *You Light Up My Life*.

Uma Thurman bounces back from *Batman and Robin* with the sci-fi thriller *Gattaca*, which co-stars boyfriend Ethan Hawke. Meanwhile, Mark Wahlberg, previously known for pop music and underwear ads, wins the approval of critics with his performance as a porn star in *Boogie Nights*.

A single-engine plane accident claims the life of John Denver Oct. 12 in Monterey Bay, California. The singer was 50.

November:

Janet Jackson releases *The Velvet Rope*, which sits at number one of the Billboard charts. Jackson's brother Michael, meanwhile, announces the second pregnancy of his wife. Babies are also in the picture for Erykah Badu and Cyndi Lauper, who give birth to sons.

John Travolta comes back to the screen for the third time in 1997 with *Mad City*. John Cusack, meanwhile, who was in *Grosse Pointe Blank* earlier in the year, appears in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

Michael Hutchence, lead singer for Australian rock band INXS, is found hanged in a hotel room Nov. 22.

December:

Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter* sweeps the 18th annual Genie awards, winning eight awards, including best movie, best director and best actor.

The Hanging Garden picks up awards for best supporting actor and actress, as well as best screen-



play.

Friends movie watch: Courtney Cox reprises her role as a tabloid reporter in *Scream 2*.

Correction

Comedian Terry McGurrin's name was misspelled in the Dec. 15 issue of *Hey!*

Plunge into Winterfest

by Richard Berta

The Doon Student Association's Winterfest '98 is scheduled to begin on Jan. 29.

The festivities will continue until Feb. 5 and will include a full day's ski trip to Blue Mountain, tobogganing at Roost Hill, skating, a camp out and an interactive college version of *The Price is Right*.

The highlight of Winterfest will be the polar plunge where select group of students will plunge into the icy waters of Conestoga's pond on opening day. The prize polar plungers - those that survive - can expect to be awarded for their bravery at a pub night at Stages featuring live entertainment, according to Steve Harris, DSA entertainment manager.

Money will be raised for charities such as the Heart and Stroke Foundation through Winterfest activities, such as the plunge.

Winterfest will also include "nooners" with bands and comedians in the sanctuary.

The Mike Plumb Band, a folkish rock band, is scheduled to play in the Sanctuary on Jan. 8.

Appearing on Jan. 21 will be the Devil's Advocate, a comedy duo that involves the audience in their acts.

Harris has also put in an offer for the Matthew Good Band and Loudmouth Mason for the week of Jan. 29, although it is not certain whether they will appear. "The more students that come out, the more of a success Winterfest will be," Harris said.

"New students should expect to have a blast of snow in the face."



Movie of the Week

Tuesday, January 6
11:30 am
The Sanctuary

WHO WE ARE

J1A SPOKE Supplement

CONESTOGA'S DOON COMMUNITY

January 5, 1998

A vision of WHO WE ARE

Seven university graduates. This is who we are. Our Journalism 1A class has worked together to create "Who We Are," a supplement defining the diversity of Conestoga College.

We asked why Conestoga's Doon campus is different from the outside community?

Community, according to the definition in the 1994 Oxford Dictionary is: 1. a group with common interests or origins, and 2. a fellowship, being alike in some way.

The latter definition was our main focus. We wanted to discover not only the differences, but similarities of the individuals who attend Conestoga.

Our supplement merely scratches the surface of the diversity present at Conestoga. We also acknowledge that many other groups have not been represented. Page limitations restricted our scope.

We do hope, however, that the stories that have made it to print will entertain, inform and above all educate.

Concerning students and faculty, we are all here for one of two reasons: to educate, or to be educated. This separates Conestoga from the outside community, but indicates our uniqueness, and that uniqueness lies in the diversity of the people chosen to work, study or teach at Conestoga College.

DSA services lacking student interest



DSA president Chris Kroeker says students should take advantage of DSA programs like Walk Safe and Peer Tutoring.

photo: Ken Groulx

By Ken Groulx

Entertainment is one service provided by the Doon Student Association, but members of DSA administration say they feel students are not taking full advantage of other programs and services provided to aid student survival at Conestoga College.

The Sanctuary is near capacity afternoons with students enjoying video games and watching MuchMusic, but the most beneficial programs and services are going unnoticed or are rarely used, according to DSA president Chris Kroeker and DSA vice-president Johanna Stevens.

Stevens says student apathy and lack of time are the biggest problems facing the DSA in attracting volunteers and participants.

"They just don't want to get involved," Stevens said.

Offering information seminars as an alternative to comedians, bands and other forms of entertainment has not drawn student interest, according to Kroeker.

"We've tried to have brain-training things but they just don't go over well," said Kroeker. "But students should pay attention to them."

There's more to school life than the Sanctuary, he said.

Road trips to Buffalo Bills games and Toronto Raptors games are popular with the student body, but other programs such as Walk Safe and Peer Tutoring have had trouble attracting interest.

Walk Safe, a volunteer program that provides someone to escort female students who don't feel safe walking to their cars or to Rodeway Suites alone, began last year during the second semester after a lack of interest from volun-

teers prevented the program from beginning in September.

Kroeker says Walk Safe is one program he would like to promote more now that its volunteers are paid.

"That's generated more interest in the way of walkers, but we still need more females in need of the service. I think we've only had about four," said Kroeker.

Peer Tutoring, which is co-sponsored by the DSA and Student Services, matches students experiencing difficulties in courses with senior student tutors for a nominal fee.

"(Peer Tutoring) is something students should definitely take advantage of," said Kroeker. "but it's a service students don't use as much as they should."

Student Foodshare, a program that provides donated, non-perishable foods to needy students, has been successful, but still could be better with more input from students, according to Kroeker.

"A lot of students don't really know about it," says Kroeker. "It's one of those things that doesn't get promoted enough as it probably should."

Stevens says accessing the Foodshare is a sensitive issue for some students.

"Some people are just embarrassed," Stevens said, "even though we encourage them to come in and just take whatever they want. People have car payments and kids and it gets tight."

Kroeker, however, said he is hoping for a big turnout of food

for Christmas and is hoping to expand Foodshare beyond the peak holidays.

"Around the heavy times, we want to let people know that it is there," Kroeker says. "But we want to let them know it is something available throughout the year whenever a student needs it."

The DSA does not require any forms, ask any questions or take any names from students accessing Foodshare.

Of 30 students questioned in the Sanctuary by this reporter, nearly all said the DSA has a problem informing students about all it has to offer students in the way of survival services.

Anna Turkalj, a first year student in the recreation and leadership program, says she thinks the DSA advertising is ineffective.

"I know they have ads all over the school, but you are so inundated with everything that's pasted all over the hallways that they lose their effectiveness because you simply start to ignore them," says Turkalj.

Stevens says DSA advertising is a problem area that could be improved.

"Some things are just hard to advertise for," Stevens said. "We don't really know how to go about some of them."

Lisa Allison, a graduate of the early childhood education program, says she didn't know about any of the survival services provided by the DSA during her time at Conestoga College.

Continued on page 4

System less traditional than in Pakistan

International student praises Canadian college life

By Anita Santarossa

The international students who attend Conestoga College are a small group who contribute immensely to the college's diversity.

According to registrar, Fred Harris, 28 international students currently attend Conestoga's Doon campus. These students comprise the number of students enrolled through the international student office.

Noshad Chaudry, a 23-year old accounting student, is one such student.

Chaudry, now in his third year, comes from Jhelum, Pakistan. He ventured to Canada by himself, three years ago, to seek a better education. Before coming to Canada, he completed one year of college in Pakistan. He is currently studying accounting at Conestoga and intends to get his B.A. in accounting after college.

He explained several differences between Pakistan's and Canada's education systems.

Like some of Europe and other eastern countries, Pakistan studies under the British system, said Chaudry.

"College life is much more traditional, from where I come from," he said. "The students wear uniforms."

The tests students write in

Pakistan during the year are merely for practice, said Chaudry.

"You must retain what you have learned in nine months for one final test."

Though Chaudry finds the stress level to be the same, he prefers the

Canadian system where tests throughout the term are assessed as well as the final exam.

"You retain more and it is much more practical learning," he said. Chaudry said the education he is receiving here is much better than

the education he would receive in Pakistan.

"There is more chance for me to advance when I go back home compared to the students who have studied in Pakistan," he said. "The technology here is much

more advanced."

Chaudry chose to study here for the hands-on education, however, he suggested that a co-op option would greatly improve the existing program.

"Some colleges in Ontario do offer co-op accounting and I think it is a necessity for Conestoga," Chaudry said. "We need work experience."

Chaudry also mentioned the social barrier between women and men in his country. He said women and men rarely mingle at social events.

The most difficult thing for Chaudry has been the social adjustment.

His friendships were more close-knit back home.

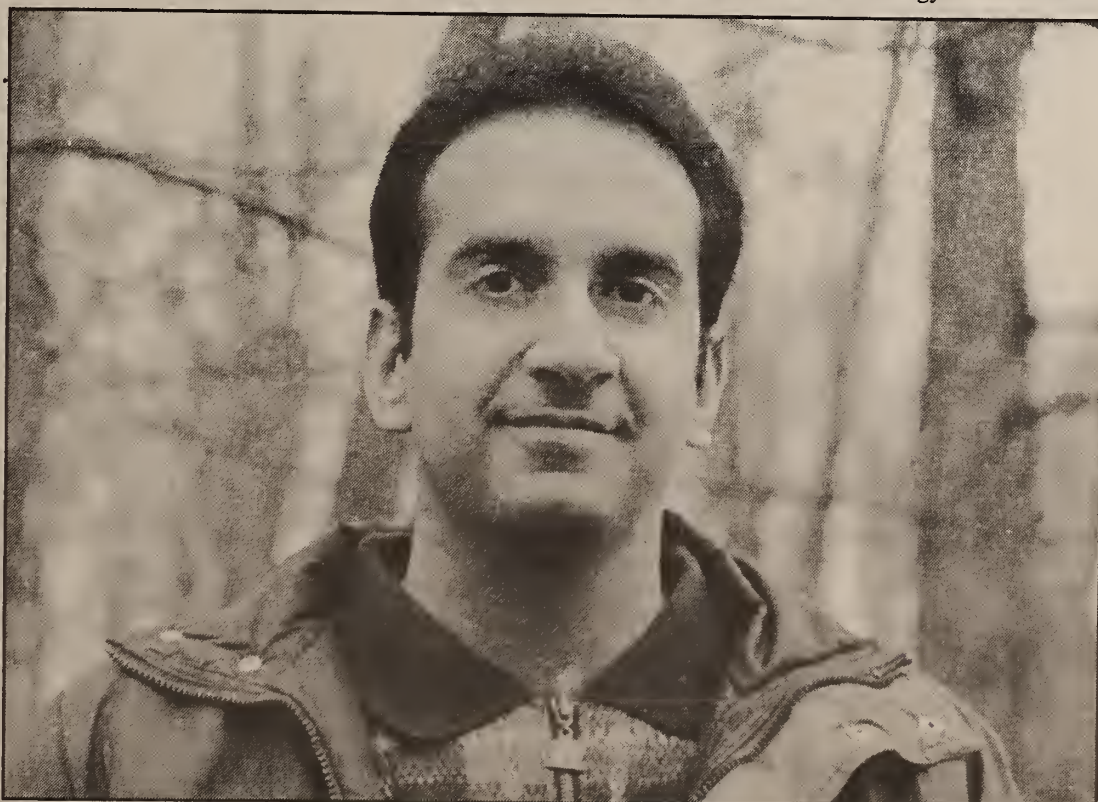
"My friendships in Canada are more limited, but I find the atmosphere more relaxed and there is a better standard of living," said Chaudry.

He said he was also amazed at the informality between teachers and students at Conestoga.

"It's not normal to call a teacher by their first name," said Chaudry. "We must address our teachers as 'Sir' or 'Madam'."

Chaudry also tutors accounting and economics as his part-time job.

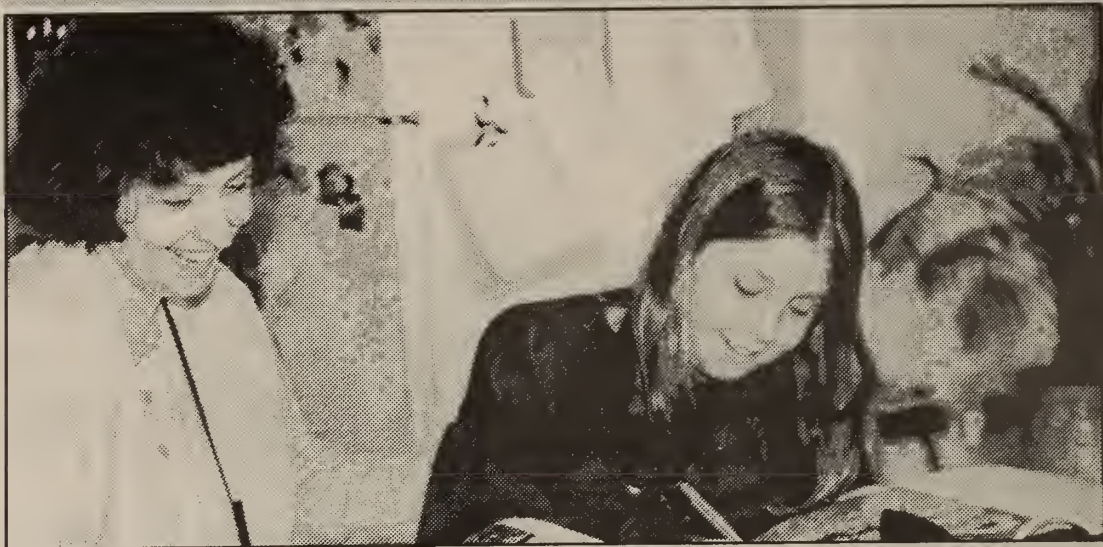
His part-time job not only helps other students but it allows him to review his studies, he said.



Accounting student Noshad Chaudry says his Canadian education will open doors for him when he returns to Pakistan.

Photo: Anita Santarossa

WHO WE ARE



Journalism student Linda Wright and daughter, Shannon, 10, study at home. photo: Dee Bettencourt

Conestoga moms embrace their kids and their homework

By Dee Bettencourt

Don't bother phoning journalism student Linda Wright when she is doing her homework, because her 10-year-old daughter Shannon screens the calls so mom can get her homework done.

Wright and her daughter seem to have their roles reversed.

The Conestoga College student said she is often asked, "What did your daughter make for your lunch today?"

Interviews with two mothers who are students at Conestoga revealed strong family ties, with commitment to school a close second. Linda Wright, 35, and Pat Lago, 45, live with the demands of children, work and school since their return to school.

Wright was a high school dropout. She moved to Ontario with the younger of her two daughters following her divorce and began the road to re-education with hairdressing school.

"Hairdressing paid minimum wage," Wright said. "I wanted to be a hairdresser with Grade 12. Then I wanted more."

With the help of provincial funding, she graduated from grades 10, 11 and 12 within one year. Along the way, she realized she loved reading and writing.

Wright said she was encouraged to do reporting by her English teacher at the Wellington Centre for Continuing Education in Guelph and was published in the Guelph Mercury newspaper.

She still keeps a hairdressing chair in her kitchen and frequently clips hair to earn extra cash.

Pat Lago said she has wanted to be involved in architecture since completing a building project in high school. She also wanted to stay home and care for her large family. Twenty-five years after the birth of her first child she is actively pursuing both dreams.

Lago studies construction engineering while single parenting six children ages 25, 21, 19, 16, 13 and 12. She said she is in the unusual position of attending Conestoga with her only daughter, 19-year-old Frannie, who is in her first year of business accounting.

Lago, the oldest first-year stu-

dent in a male-dominated program, is determined to use her age and experience in house building to pursue her career.

Lago said she often did not receive respect from subcontractors when she participated in building her own home because they thought she lacked education in a trade.

She has actually had years of experience owning and maintaining two student rental properties in Waterloo and has completely renovated two century homes in the Elora area. However, one excavator she hired called her a 'fly-by-night' contractor. Another subcontractor would not talk to her directly, taking his orders from a third party.

"I find it so hard to do homework at night. It's easier to go to bed early and get up at 4:30 or 5 a.m.," says Lago.

Lago also ran a successful sportswear and trophy business servicing the Elora area.

"I sold that business so I could go back to school and not be bogged down," she said. "Now my kids are old enough, I can really pursue my career."

The two mothers said they felt going to college not only had long-term benefits, but short-term personal benefits as well.

Shannon, Wright's 10-year-old daughter, is used to her mother being in school, again. Shannon said she is proud of her mother and agrees with her that they are both conscientious about school work.

"Mom has more homework than me," said Shannon. "She does it all night long."

When asked what the mothers of her friends do, Shannon said some of her friends' mothers work outside of the home, some stay home and make good cookies.

"But I don't care what my mom does. She's happy in school. Just ask her," said the 10-year-old.

Most students look forward to getting away from their moms when they go to college, but Frannie Lago takes hers with her.

Lago's daughter said that it is really fun attending Conestoga College with her mom and she expects to graduate with her.

A lot of her friends told her they thought it would be a drag having their mom watch over them, Frannie said, but she enjoys the support her mother gives her.

Now, she said, her friends are as proud of her mother as she is.

"Besides, she looks so cute with her backpack walking down the hall. She's having fun," said Frannie.

There are no negatives to her mother re-entering the education system, said Frannie, especially since her mother tries to spend time with her big family at home.

"School is really new and foreign for her, but she has guts," she said.

Mothers who are students address different concerns than their non-parenting colleagues at Conestoga College.

Wright said she sometimes feels guilty when her daughter is home alone.

"I worry, does she need me?" she said. "Then when I come home, she's fine."

Wright said between time spent at Guides with Shannon, doing crafts and clipping hair in her spare time, she is often tired.

"It would be nice to be a student and go home to have mom make meals at night and have a clean house," she said.

However, her daughter interrupted at this point to remind her that she makes meals too. Wright agreed. Mother and daughter pull together as a team.

Lago now has only four of her six children at home, but still spends time taking them to hockey, driver-training lessons and other sports. She said life is hectic just dealing with the telephone and all their friends.

"A lot of kids work hard outside of school," she said. "But having the responsibility of a large family is definitely more time consuming."

continued on page 4

School can be different the second time around

By Michael Hilborn

For many students at Conestoga, college is a natural progression from high school.

For Judy Roe and Sid Nolan, high school is but a distant memory. Both are mature students who have more than 50 years of work experience between them.

Sid Nolan, 50, is a mechanical engineering student from Bell Island, Nfld. Like many of his neighbours, Sid worked in the local Dosco iron ore mine until it closed in 1965. He then moved to Worcester, Mass., where he worked for six months.

While living in the United States, Sid learned his work permit, the green card, made him eligible for military service. He was given two weeks to agree to report to an induction centre or leave the country. He left and moved to Cambridge, Ont., in 1966.

Today, Sid says he has no regrets about that decision.

"I lost a friend," he recalls.

"Baxter Warren got killed in Vietnam. A brave young man but nevertheless, he's dead. He was from Bell Island too. Quite a brave young man — he won the Purple Heart."

Sid worked in Cambridge as a die setter for 28 years, the last 17 years at Preston Metal.

When Sid was injured on the job in 1991, he found that the physical demands of his occupation were more than he could handle. He moved to the company's sales department where he stayed until the plant closed in 1995.

Unemployed, with a permanent disability, Sid learned he was eligible for job training and other benefits through the Workers' Compensation Board. Sid upgraded his math and English skills and graduated in June 1997 from Conestoga's general arts and science program with an average of 87 per cent.

Now in the first semester of the mechanical engineering program, Sid says he finds the workload and schedule demanding, but he is enjoying the challenge.

Judy Roe, 50, was born in Conestoga and raised in Kitchener. Today, she is a first semester student in accounting. She worked as a press operator at Lear Corporation in Kitchener for 17 years.

In 1994 she was diagnosed with fibromyalgia, a chronic condition that makes heavy, repetitive activity impossible. She was temporarily assigned to lighter duties, but was let go when no appropriate permanent position became available.

With the help of the company and the Canadian Auto Workers, Judy became eligible for a Workers' Compensation Board disability program.

Like Sid, Judy says she was subjected to a variety of psychological and aptitude testing before she came to college. She says the pace and workload of college is a considerable challenge.

"At 50, you don't retain new knowledge as well," she says.

People like Sid and Judy experience a different kind of pressure than that with which most students must contend. Since both are being paid to go to school, they must maintain satisfactory grades or risk having their incomes cut off.

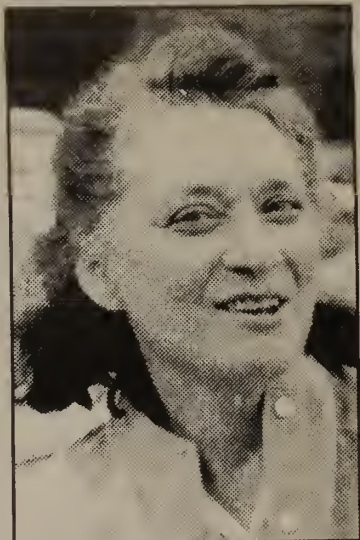
Both said they take their studies more seriously as a result.

"We attend every class," says Judy. "We don't party when we have homework to do. We have that responsibility. The kids will say, 'Well, I didn't make it this year so Mommy and Daddy will send me back next year.'"

"We older ones know we're given two chances. If we don't make it the second time around, our income is cut off. If they (younger students) screw up, they can do something else. They have their whole lives ahead of them."

Sid Nolan said he agrees. "I see these young fellows. They go out and they party, they don't come to class regularly. They don't get all their assignments done and they still think they can pass with 90s."

When asked what they like most



Judy Roe studies accounting.

photo: Michael Hilborn

about being students at college, both Sid and Judy mentioned the people with whom they work.

"It's nice to have the routine," says Sid. "It's nice to have activity around me again. It's nice to belong, to be with people who know different things than I do. I like being around people."

"I like talking to the teachers," said Judy. "I think they enjoy the older students. I can talk to them as an equal and they seem to respect an adult's opinion."

When asked what they didn't like about school life, both said they found the workload to be quite onerous.

"I think there is an awful burden of homework — of responsibility put on us," says Sid. "Between homework and school I'm putting in between 85 and 90 hours a week. That means no social life, no late nights"

"When I worked in a plant, I didn't bring my work home with me. continued on page 4

WHO WE ARE

Teacher defeats life's obstacles

By Amanda Fickling

One Conestoga College teacher began her post-secondary education with a desire to become the president of IBM, but an unwillingness on the part of employers to hire women in the marketing field made that a difficult task.

Shelley Frangos, who started teaching word processing at Doon campus this September, began her

post-secondary education in the pre-business program at the University of Western Ontario in 1966.

She enjoyed her marketing course the most and after first year, Frangos switched her major to economics with a minor in English and psychology.

When Frangos graduated she applied to a number of companies, including IBM and 3M.

After sending out 75 resumes and cover letters, Frangos was called for an interview with 3M.

She completed an aptitude test and was told that 3M had never had anyone score higher. She was then told that the company had never had a woman in their marketing department and they weren't hiring women.

It was acceptable then to discriminate against women when hiring.

"It ticked me off," said Frangos, who decided to change her focus and applied to female-oriented industries like Noxema and Playtex. The result was the same.

At an interview with Noxema, Frangos says she was told it would be too much of a hassle to hire a woman. She was told that the men in the office would have to watch their language, and that the company would have to book a separate hotel room on business trips if they hired her.

Once more Frangos changed her direction.

In May 1969, Frangos received a job offer from a brokerage firm where all the female employees were either broker assistants or secretaries.

Frangos says she passed the tests

that gave her a license to sell stocks and bonds, but was refused a position in sales.

"It ticked me off," said Frangos.

In 1971 Frangos finally found a job related to her degree with the Canadian Manufacturer's Association but ironically, she ended up hating it.

Meanwhile, Frangos took a part-time job as a waitress, and she found herself looking forward to her Friday night shifts as a waitress more than her Monday morning shifts with the association.

Frangos resigned and took a position as a restaurant manager for two years, got married, had a son and then stopped working outside the home to parent full time.

Four years later when Frangos became a single mom with a four-year-old son, she undertook another job search.

Hoping to find a job where she wouldn't be replaced by a computer in 10 years, Frangos returned to school to take computer training. From May 1985 to May 1986,

Frangos was enrolled at Seneca College where she earned her diploma in programming and operations.

"Community college is the route to go in terms of career preparation," said Frangos. "University gives you life skills."

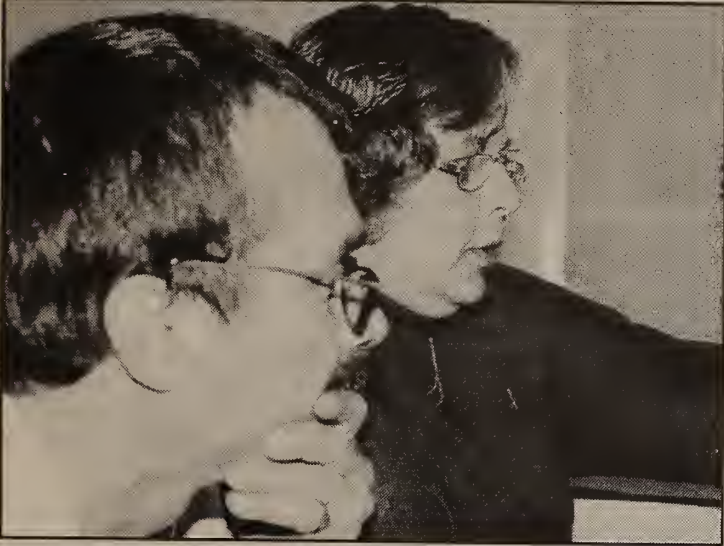
Frangos took a job with the Prudential life insurance company where she worked until 1994. It was bought out and the majority of its employees were fired.

Unemployed, Frangos turned to her own knowledge and created a job for herself. Frangos is now self-employed and operates her company, Personal Computer Support Service and Training, out of her home. Finally content with a position in a field she has studied, Frangos says the hardest part about having her own business is not knowing when the next pay cheque will come.

An outgoing and high-energy person, Frangos will make an excellent teacher, said Jan and Dave Mullock of Stratford, friends for 20 years.

Perseverance is Frangos' most apparent trait, says Jan.

"Anything she gets her teeth on she just goes for it," said Jan Mullock.



Shelley Frangos (right) instructs Michael Hilborn (left), a journalism student, during a word processing class at Conestoga College's Doon campus.

photo: Amanda Fickling

Alumna cracks 'coconut high' myth

By Yallena Cica

Conestoga's alumni no longer stroll the college's hallways daily, but many keep some connection to the college.

Sarah Todd, president of Conestoga's Alumni Association, recently talked to Spoke about her college days, what she has done since graduation and what keeps her tied to her alma mater.

The 31-year-old Kitchener native talks enthusiastically about her three years in the accounting program. She says there was a definite sense of community when she was at the college. She recalls that the students in the business program were a close-knit group.

She also credits a strong economy and plentiful opportunities with encouraging a good academic atmosphere.

"I think we knew when we were done most of us would get jobs in our related field," she explains, "so that created a really positive environment."

Sarah says she has many good memories of Conestoga, but convocation is the best. The day was beautiful. Friends and family were there to share the excitement. Everyone was full of hope and a sense of accomplishment.

"It was the final hurrah."

Sarah's career has moved quickly since her graduation in 1988. It began with a staff accounting position at Touche Ross, now Deloitte and Touche. After five years there, Sarah went on to become the comptroller at K-W Optical Ltd. for four years. She then took a job as a comptroller

with MarketForce Communications Inc. in the spring of 1997. In August, she changed companies yet again to become the financial statement co-ordinator with VersaCare Ltd.

Sarah says she chose accounting because it reflects the way she thinks. She likes numbers and organization.

She also thinks she chose the right field because finding work has never been a difficulty for her. This is partly because of her personal traits and the way she has looked for work, but it also has to do with the nature of accounting.

"I've been very fortunate to be in a field where I can go anywhere," she says. "There's always going to be accounting no matter what changes. It evolves as we've become more computerized, but the fundamentals stay the same."

Sarah learned these fundamentals at Conestoga and thinks her program prepared her well for her career. She jokes that she forgot everything she learned in school during the first weeks of her first job. But once she got into it, she says her employers were pleasantly surprised at her range of skills.

"I don't think they realized what the college was producing in terms of accounting grads," she says. "I was one of the first college grads hired by the firm. And they were really surprised at the calibre of person they got."

Her performance also opened the door for future Conestoga grads because she has done some recruiting for the firm. In fact, the firm is still hiring Conestoga graduates almost 10 years later.

There is a view in the general and business communities that Conestoga is simply a technical school, says Sarah. She adds that she has battled a little with this perception throughout her career, though less and less over time.

"When I chose to come to Conestoga, people called it 'coconut high' and it had all sorts of connotations," she says. "Friends of my parents were saying, 'What happened to Sarah. Why is she going to Conestoga College?'"

She says she chose Conestoga because she wanted a job. After researching post-secondary programs, she learned the college had a high rate of employed graduates. This impressed her.

"To me that sent a clear message that if I wanted a job I could come here, get an education and start working."

Despite the attitudes, Sarah asserts that her college education has not held her back. She also mentioned that the high placement rates for 1995-96 indicate that Conestoga's reputation is improving.

"Perhaps I may be earning a higher salary if I had gone to university and got my CA accounting designation," she says. "But, for me that's neither here nor there. I'm satisfied with my career and I'm happy with who I am."

Sarah's connection to the college continues through the college's alumni association. She has been a member for five years now; two of those as vice-president and two as president. She also serves on the advisory committee of the



Sarah Todd on the Doon campus patio remembers her college days.

photo: Yallena Cica

accounting program.

She has been asked several times about her ongoing interest in the college. Her response tends to be that her years at Conestoga were good. She admits her involvement during her college days was limited; she was focused on the academics rather than the social activities. Nonetheless, she says she benefited from her education here and she now wants to give something back through her time so others can also benefit.

On a personal level, Sarah remains close with a friend she met at Conestoga. She says they get together and reminisce about college days and wonder about their classmates. Still, neither has actively tried to keep in touch with the others.

Sarah has some advice for first-year students concerning possibil-

ities and experience. No one is stuck because of some past choice, she says. There are many programs from which to choose.

"It's not a failure if you don't like (a program)," she says. "Look for something else and keep moving forward."

Meanwhile, she reminds graduating students that jobs only come if people look for them. At the same time, graduates must be flexible. They may have to start in a job that is somewhat different from what they want and build towards their goal.

Sarah says she does not consider herself to be particularly special. She simply enjoys what she does.

"I think if I'm happy with who I am, the people around me will feel that as well," she concludes. "It makes for a better environment for me and others."

WHO WE ARE

Graduate has better vision for future

By Dawn Matheson

Everybody, including owner Carey Ruby, thinks seeing-eye dog Winston is a lot cuter than a cane.

So cute, in fact, Carey is always having to say, "Oh no, please don't touch the dog."

Carey depends on Winston, a golden Labrador retriever who has acted as Carey's eyes for the last couple of months, replacing the white cane that guided Carey down the halls for the past five years at Conestoga.

The spring '97 graduate of small business development and micro-computer applications has faced more challenges throughout his years at Conestoga than the average undergraduate student.

"It's nice to have a good-looking lab, but as a guide dog, it sure is a drawback," says the visually-impaired 32-year-old. "I mean, not many people would come right up and say, 'Oh, what a cute dog', and pet a Doberman."

Carey's visual impairment is a result of hydrocephalus, or water on the brain, a condition where fluid does not drain properly from the brain.

Diagnosed at the age of four, Carey required the use of a shunt to drain excess fluid from his brain when the pressure built up.

Until the age of 21, his vision was not significantly affected by the disease; he did not wear glasses and he had a driver's license.

In Carey's teens, before he had experienced any loss of vision, he developed a phobia whereby he could not leave his house without experiencing extreme anxiety.

At this time, the shunt used to drain the excess fluid from Carey's brain stopped working properly, creating a buildup of pressure.

At the height of his phobia, Carey dreaded ending up in the

hospital so he put it off for as long as possible and stopped going to the doctors.

By the time a visit to the doctor became inevitable, Carey's hydrocephalus had worsened and the buildup of fluid had damaged his optic nerve, causing his visual impairment.

By 1986, Carey's sight rapidly deteriorated over a period of a few months, then levelled out to its current capacity of about 10 per cent vision.

"When I think of success, I look to Carey and how much more he has gained than a diploma," says Rick Casey. "He has gained his independence."

Carey says people often have the misconception that visual impairment is either all or nothing.

"Sights vary so much," says Carey, who sees silhouettes. "It's sometimes misleading because people say, 'You're visually impaired? You're blind? But you're looking at me.'"

After being out of high school for almost 10 years, Carey came to Conestoga College to work in a placement position organized by a training facility for the handicapped in London, Ont.

The support Carey received from the Doon campus special needs staff provided Carey with the confidence he needed to enrol as a student in 1992.

School would be different this time. Carey had not attended school since he had lost his vision.

At Conestoga, Carey accessed the services provided for special needs students which allowed him to participate in regular classes designed for students with sight.

Carey is one of 10 blind and/or visually impaired students who have attended Conestoga College over the years. Including Carey, seven have graduated, while three other students with partial visual impairment are currently enrolled at Doon campus.

Students can use a variety of technical aids depending on their level of sight. Books on tape are provided by the Ross MacDonald School for the Blind in Brantford, in addition to those recorded by on-campus volunteers.

The three students currently on campus use one of three readers provided by the college to enlarge the print in textbooks.

Since Carey's sight is more limited, he used a computer which scans written text and converts it to speech through a voice synthesizer. In class, where students with sight took notes, Carey used a tape recorder.

While most of Carey's instructors tried to accommodate his handicap, Carey says the instructors' vocabulary has to change so as not to exclude students without sight.

They need to be more descriptive, choosing words other than 'this here' and 'that there', and they must take into consideration any gestures that would be missed by visually impaired students, says Carey.

But Carey himself admits he sometimes forgets to be more verbally descriptive with his blind friends, like pointing to one of his eyes instead of specifying the left or the right.

Carey said he had a very positive experience with classmates who helped him clarify things in class. "Some students, in fact, overdid



Guide dog Winston is working with master Carey Ruby.

photo: Dawn Matheson

it," says Carey. "You know, saying, 'Oh, let me get the door for you,' and I tell them I can get it, but they get it anyways."

Carey doesn't mind though, he adds in his laid-back fashion.

For class tests, Carey received the test on disc which he hooked up to the speech scanner at the special needs office, or he was tested orally by a proctor, Rick Casey, a counsellor with special needs services, who read the questions aloud.

"Carey is a person who knows how to show strength in a disability, rather than weakness," says Casey, who has had a long-term relationship with Carey since his arrival at Conestoga. "He represents the kind of hope and encouragement we need to instil in society."

Since leaving Conestoga, Carey continues to make the best of his abilities by accepting the nature of his limitation.

He volunteers at the Canadian Institute for the Blind in Waterloo in the technical aids department, teaching other visually impaired people about talking watches, talking calculators and other household aids.

He is also a member of Toastmasters and is involved with the March of Dimes and the Independent Living Centre in Kitchener.

For employment, Carey would like to work in customer service and low-pressure sales.

"But I'm not sure yet," Carey says. "Things at school, barriers that came up, have kind of left me spinning a bit."

Rick Casey doesn't doubt Carey's capacity to be successful.

"When I think of success, I look to Carey and how much more he has gained than a diploma," says Casey. "He has gained his independence."

He hasn't done it by himself, Carey admits.

He says he has relied on the staff at special needs for more than just his studies. He sees them as being instrumental in his acquisition of his dog, Winston.

"It was funny," Carey says. "They kept teasing and nagging me, from 1992 on, to get a dog."

Carey gets much more attention these days anyhow.

"Nobody at school used to come up to me and say, 'Oh, what a cute cane'," Carey laughs.

Moms

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In addition to dealing with children's activities, the maintenance of her properties and school courses, Lago said she is in the process of a messy divorce agreement for asset division.

"It's a lot. I find it so hard to do homework at night," she said. "It's easier to go to bed early and get up at 4:30 or 5 a.m."

Lago said she is currently seeing someone.

"At first I thought I would be alone for many years with so many children to look after on my own, but fortunately it didn't work out that way," said Lago. "It's surprising, but I think more men enjoy family life and kids than you might realize."

She said she doesn't worry about a social life as much as her classmates do — an opinion also shared by Wright.

Wright said she now knows that writing is a natural expression for her and hopes to write for hair-dressing magazines when she graduates in three years.

Lago said school has extended her empathy for her children who are students.

It's been good for her to understand what it's like for her teenagers going to college and university, she said.

"I am showing them that adults have a zest for learning," Lago said. "It can lead to something you really enjoy doing. Kids and school keep you young in a lot of ways — even if you don't feel young at the end of the day."

DSA

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"I honestly couldn't tell you about anything they even do," says Turkalj.

Kroeker, however, says it is ultimately up to the students to take the initiative.

"We do what we can as far as

putting out the information and once it gets out there, it's up to the students to absorb it and take the time to look at the boards," says Kroeker.

Kroeker says the DSA will try more in-your-face advertising through student radio and plans to send recruiters to Rodeway Suites in an effort to create interest, but

admits it is difficult to attract all types of students.

"Those who are here strictly for class, or commuters — I don't know if we'll ever be able to reach them," Kroeker says. "It's all in the attitude of the students. If they pay attention, they pay attention and if they don't then it won't matter how much we put into it."

Second time

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I put in my 40 hours, that's it."

Judy says she dislikes some of the subjects she is required to take, such as physics and history.

"They're throwing in extra subjects that I don't need. It's giving me more to do with what little time I have."

Sid and Judy have some advice

to give to younger students today.

"Test the field that you're going into to make sure that the demand will still be there in two or three years," says Sid.

"Give it all you've got and hope that you will not end up back here at 50 or 55 years of age."

"Get it right the first time."

Judy agrees. "Stick with it and try for the highest marks you can get," she said.

When asked where she thinks she will be going when she graduates, Judy said, "Back to Lear. They treated me well there and I'm still on the CAW recall list."

For Sid, the situation is different. The plant in which he worked has closed down.

"When I come out of this, maybe I can finish my career at one company," he said. "Loyalty is very important to me."